RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

232 Ogden Avenue – Jersey City, N.J. 07307 – (201) 798-0493

1985 – MAY ISSUE

RNA FLEA MARKET
Everything but fleas...

Here it comes, the moment I know you've all been waiting for: the RNA's *(very first)* FLEA MARKET. While we don't have any fleas, we have sold twelve tables upon which will be displayed clothing, bric-a-brac,, clocks, vases, colognes, gee-gaws, wallets, jewelry, hand-painted greeting cards, gimcracks, thingamabobs, scarves, picture frames, hand-made pottery and artistic jewelry, books, paintings, ceramics, food, refreshments, and lots of whatchamacallits. All these will be for sale at bargain prices.

In addition to all that, some of our local artists will be displaying their work for our enjoyment and so we can see what talented artists we have in our community.

Entertainment will be provided by Ellen Boggs (plus guitar) and Maria Tuzzo ("The Voice"). Children will be entertained by our "Children's art table" where they can create drawings to keep or give to Mom for Mother's Day (which is the following weekend), or sell. Turn your child into an entrepeneur: There will be prizes for the best children's drawings.

Bob Lewis will put on his chef's hat and make hot dogs with the trimmings and homemade cakes and foodstuffs will be on sale, so no one will go hungry on MAY 4th. Chairs will be provided for tired shoppers.

So come one, come all; don't be shy: JOIN US ON MAY 4th FOR A DAY OF FUN and pick up a Mother's Day gift while you're there. We'll be there from 9:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. We'll be looking for you!

–Edith Springer

...not yet

SORRY FOR THE CONFUSION

Last month, we incorrectly stated that Ogden Avenue would reverse direction from north to south between Griffith and Cuneo beginning April 17th.

What actually happened was that only the City Council passed this regulation. At press time, it is being looked at by our Traffic Department down in Trenton. Once approved by the State, it will be implemented with new street signs. Our friends in Traffic Engineering told us this week, after being barraged by confused citizens, that this regulation could take as long as two months to be put into effect.

Your overzealous chairman apologizes for this confusion. We must remember that we can change things in our neighborhood but these things take time.

Please be patient; our street will be made safe for our families and friends. In the meantime, bear with the long process; the reward is well worth the wait.

–VITO BRUNETTI

SUMMARY OF VOTES TAKEN AT THE APRIL 9th–RNA MEETING

1. MOUNTAIN ROAD – After a discussion pro and con, RNA voted to let it's decision to propose to the City Council that Mountain Road be reopened, stand as is, and not conduct a poll of the neighborhood. Thus, RNA's official position is that we want the road reopened when the year-long trial closing period ends.

(Continued on Page 2)

UPDATE: HUDSON CITY AD-HOC DEBATE COMMITTEE

All three candidates for Councilman in Ward D have accepted the Debate Committee's invitation to debate the issues of the community. Thomas Hart, Charles Hrbek, Jr., and Daniel Waddleton have agreed to meet on Friday, May 3rd at Public School No. 8 at Franklin Street and Hancock Avenue. The doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the debate will begin at 7:30 in the Auditorium.

On April 11th, in a morning meeting at the Trinity Baptist Church, representatives for all three candidates mutually determined the details for this public forum. It was decided to have one moderator who would be in charge of the activities and ask the questions of the candidates. Arthur Fabian, Vice-president of the H.N.H.S., was chosen by all parties to act as moderator. The issues to be discussed in the debate are as follows: com-

(Continued on Page 2)

SUMMARY OF VOTES . . *(Continued)*

2. CRIME/ARSON PREVENTION – RNA voted to invite Fire Department Deputy Chief Frank Racaniello and Police Lieutenant Crowley to the June 11 RNA meeting to make presentations on a neighborhood crime watch and arson watch and preventive measures we can take.

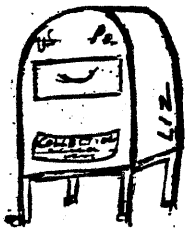
3. MAILING OF NEWSLETTERS – RNA voted to use its funds to obtain third class bulk rate permits and imprint permits and begin as soon as possible to mail out the monthly newsletters.

4. FORUM ON RIVERVIEW PARK – RNA voted to conduct a forum (similar to the one held on the Mountain Road issue) to collect information as a basis on which to decide our position on the future renovation of our park. The Parks Committee will carry out this mandate by arranging the forum and inviting appropriate panelists.

5. SUPPORT TO THE PARKS COMMITTEE PROPOSAL TO ATTEMPT TO DELAY THE PLANS TO INSTALL 30 LAMPS. RNA voted to support the Parks Committee's efforts to delay the installation of lamps which the committee feels are not sturdy, will interfere with the skyline view, and will create maintenance problems, as well as being thought of as unattractive and not in keeping with the historical nature of the park.

Dear Editor:

It is deplorable that there isn't a mail box within the RNA area. This complaint came up at the recent neighborhood meeting and I fully agree with my neighbors. Mail boxes which had been available, were vandalized and that's unfortunate. That is also history. With the appearance of the Harbor View Health Care Center, the elderly are especially deprived of this necessity.



I suggest a mail box be placed at the corner of Ogden Avenue and Franklin St. outside the well-lit Health Care Center; the security guard on duty at night will deter any would-be vandals.

Mail boxes should no longer be an endangered species in our neighborhood.

Sincerely,
Liz Murray

We are looking for a responsible person to be a regular Saturday night babysitter for our 18-month old.
Call Andy or Claudia:
659-4680
(evenings or weekends)
Ogden Ave. vicinity.

DEBATE COMMITTEE . . . *(Continued)*

munity health, education and schools, lack of city services, leisure activities, public safety, reassessment, rent control and sanitation.

The questions to be used for the debate will be pre-selected by the Debate Committee and representatives from each of the candidates. Anyone interested in submitting questions for the debate should send them to the Hudson City Ad-hoc Debate Committee, 232 Ogden Avenue, Jersey City, N.J. 07307.

All are welcome to attend the debate to see and hear the candidates. The success of this public forum depends on the responsible participation of our community.

Opinion —— *Letters to the Editor*

The comments expressed in this column reflect the opinion of the writer and not necessarily that of the RNA.

Dear Editor:

I would like to respond to Mr. William Hart's critique of the redevelopment of Central Avenue. My husband and I are proprietors of one of the stores constructed with "tacky aluminum siding" and we could not be prouder of our establishment. Perhaps Mr. Hart would prefer what was on our site before, which was an empty lot strewn with broken glass.

The facade program has given a much needed shot-in-the-arm to investment on Central Avenue. It has increased real estate values and persuaded many of our older merchants to stay, as well as encouraging new entrepreneurs to take a chance here. It is to Mr. Beard's credit that little intervention was made when the merchants redesigned their store-fronts. It is the merchants, after all, who must deal with graffitti, vandalism and burglary on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Taste is subjective, and it is unfortunate that Mr. Hart's doesn't agree with ours, but he is wrong in thinking that the merchants have to be "educated" into agreeing with him. If he spent some time *inside* the Central Avenue stores he might find that many of the merchants are very well-educated and well-versed in local history, art and architecture, but practicality and financing must also be considered when designing a functional yet attractive place of business. He might also discover the many fine goods and services we have to offer.

The Central Avenue merchants are proud of our revitalization and that of the community, and we welcome the many new groups coming into the Heights, but in order to keep the Avenue alive and thriving, we would appreciate your *patronage*, rather than your criticism.

Sincerely,
Victoria Miragliotta
President
Central Ave. Business Assoc.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Planning and Development Committee has had a quiet several weeks, except for catching up on some paperwork. Several of its members have been embroiled in other problems facing our neighborhood, like debates, funding for Neighborhood Housing, and getting ready for the spring cleanup and park Flea Market.

But all is not forgotten. The new development at Pohlman Hall, a building which has had so many names in its historical existence that one can not be sure what to call it, is beginning and the committee will soon set up a meeting with the developer to find out what his plans are, especially the long range plans for the land surrounding the existing building The committee also is arranging a meeting with the developer of the DiBlasi property to monitor the progress on that property.

The small house at 179 Ogden, which we saved, has now been reportedly sold, so we look forward to another renovation in our neighborhood. The damage to the metal front at the Ogden-Franklin project has been noted and action commenced to ensure repair.

One item which is becoming a concern to many members is the seemingly haphazard renovation of Palisade Avenue. The committee needs interested people to keep a watch and report to us or to the Building Department when something looks amiss. The problem occurs because newspaper notification is not necessary to simply renovate a building without changing its usage.

The Planning and Development Committee wishes to thank all concerned members who have called about new developments in the neighborhood. Again, if you want to attend meetings of the committee, call Edward Lortz, 795-5183, and leave him or his answering machine your name and phone number so you can be called when meetings occur. If you get a letter from a developer about a project near you, or hear about some development or renovation being done near you, also call him. If Ed doesn't return your call in a day or so, call back, or call Anne Hart, 795-2664, or Vito Brunetti, 798-0493.

–ED LORTZ

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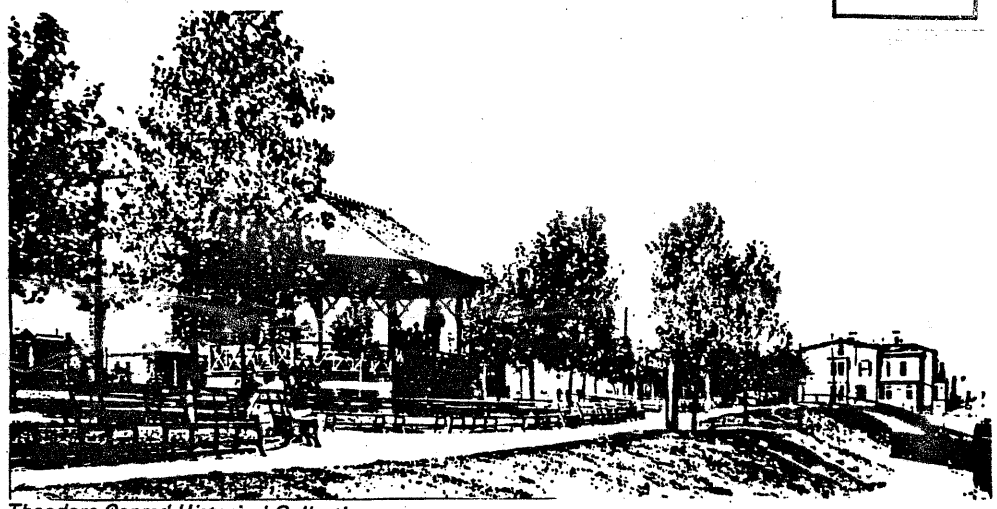
pets corner

BEAUTIFUL
3-MONTH OLD
FEMALE PUPPY
FOR ADOPTION

MOSTLY BLACK. LOOKS LIKE PART SHEPARD. FRIENDLY, SWEET, GENTLE.
CONTACT:
EXOTIC AQUATICS
252 Central Ave. (420-1932)



Theodore Conrad Historical Collection RIVERVIEW PARK

RIVERVIEW PARK: YESTERDAY AND TODAY

William P. Kastenhuber procured the site for the park, raised the flag and made the opening speech at the dedication ceremony eighty-eight years ago.

Tourists had been coming up the elevated line from Hoboken and New York to the Grandview Hall beer garden and Pohlman's Hall located on Ogden Avenue between Franklin & Ferry St. When benches were first placed on walks in the park facing the view they were crowded on weekends with people eager to get a glimpse of the river before skyscrapers made their appearance.

The park was beautifully landscaped with flowering shrubs, sheep were even allowed to graze on the lawns. A small playground, 50 x 100 ft. served the needs of the area and was closed off after 6 p.m. every day. The park pavilion was used for concerts in summer. The lower portion with toilet facilities and storage for garden tools also served as a police station by the police patroling the area.

Around 1935, W.P.A. workers were sent to improve the park; for no good reason the walkway with benches facing the view was eliminated along with all the shrubbery on the steep incline which in a short time, developed a serious erosion problem. The little playground was moved to the delightfully green passive area facing the view and encased in an ugly chainlink fence. Tennis courts, now an area for basketball and a boccie court spoiled still more of the view side.

In 1960, the Jersey City Housing Authority wanted to build five Senior Citizen Housing Projects in the park. Ruth and Ted Conrad led the fight to save the park. During the Whelan administration, the park police were abolished along with proper maintenance. Three attempts to destroy the pavilion were made by Councilman Addas. It too was saved by Theodore Conrad who had it repaired and has been painting out graffiti ever since with paint supplied by Novick Paint store. Five years ago, seven thousand dollars of CDBG money was appropriated to reshingle the roof of the pavilion and forty-seven thousand to repair walks, railings on the pavilion and raise the rear wall to 36" with cement blocks. In-house workers from the Dept. of Public Works were supposed to do the work, but none ever showed up.

In the meantime, a 24 thousand dollar wading pool, which all the neighbors opposed was built, it lasted two weeks. Stripping the park bare and cleaning it with a crew twice a week from the Dept. of Public Works, which Councilman Tom Hart suggested, has worked quite well, in fact mother nature has taken over, the park is just like a New England Village Green but this may be short lived, some thirty cute lights a "la Williamsburgh" have been proposed which will not only spoil the magnificent view under the trees from Palisade Avenue, but turn the park into an all night camping ground with bongo drums, beer bottles and litter like Van Vorst Park which is now almost devoid of all vegetation after spending $400,000 dollars on a Green Acres restoration project.

–BOB LEWIS

IT ALL STARTED AS A JOKE . . .

At the advanced age of 38, dolls were the last thing on my mind. But, when my mother, as a joke, bought me a doll for Christmas, I went along with the charade, and dressed the doll for the holidays. I then resurrected the two dolls left over from my youth, and dressed them to be used also as decoration under the tree. Thus it started. Now, 5½ years later, the "joke" has turned into a very real hobby.

My collection boasts approximately 30 of the Effenbee "Collectors Series" dolls in period or story book costumes. But my favorites are the baby, or what I call "touchable" dolls. I have about 30 of these. Most of the collection is only brought out for Christmas but nine dolls grace my room all year, and are dressed and groomed for each season, or special holidays: For instance, Christmas, each is dressed in a red and white outfit. Easter, each has a different pastel outfit, etc. I've given each doll a name, and refer to the dolls by their names whenever I show them off. Since I started my collection, I have discovered there are a great many "mature" doll lovers, and although it can sometimes be an expensive hobby, it is at all times fun. As an extension of my doll collection, I have recently become fascinated with doll houses. Perhaps, with enough hints, my mother will buy me a doll house as a "joke".

–MARIA TUZZO

CRIME PREVENTION MEETING

The RNA Crime Prevention Committee will have an important presentation at our June 11th meeting, at 7 P.M. at the Harbor View Health Care Center.

This presentation will be of great importance since two major topics that are crucial for the safety of our neighborhood are going to be discussed:

Organization of a blockwatch group and the prevention of arson in our area.

Deputy Chief Frank Racaniello will be present to discuss arson prevention in the neighborhood. Lieutenant Dennis Crowley will talk about crime prevention.

We will give you more details about this meeting in the next newsletter. Make plans to be there and contribute with your ideas and suggestions to this important issue.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Marie "Dee" Ipsaro, Liz Murray, Edith Springer, Raquel Sweeny
Special thanks to Kathy Brennan

DON'T FORGET THAT, DUE TO THE ELECTIONS, OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY, MAY 7th, 7 P.M.
Harbor View Health Care Center

HAVE A DAY AT THE RIVERVIEW PARK
(Ogden Ave. & Bowers St.)
Jersey City

SENSATIONAL BLOCK-LONG FLEA MARKET AND ARTS-CRAFTS SHOW

Sponsored by:
The Riverview
Neighborhood Assoc.

Saturday, May 4th, From 9-4
(Raindate: Sunday, May 11th)